Preventive vaccine for AIDS

1913. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that preventive vaccines for HIV/AIDS are not available in the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to combat the crucial disease;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to develop cost-effective modified vaccine indigenously; and

(d) when it is expected to be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme under following components:—

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counselling, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, behaviour change communication, supply of condom etc.

- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counselling and testing services, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC).

- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections, free Antiretroviral therapy in designated centres and prevention of occupational exposure.

- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.

- Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical Resource Groups, Operational Research and Programme Management.

(c) Government has initiated research through ICMR for development of preventive vaccine(s) against HIV. The tripartite agreement between the National AIDS Control Organisation, the Indian Council of Medical Research and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) was signed on 19th February 2001 for developing and evaluating vaccines.

Phase One trials of an-Adeno-Associated Virus-based vaccine was initiated on February 7,2005 at National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune.

(d) The completion of phase I, II and III trails may take about seven years. Only after successful trials of the effectiveness of the vaccine it can be considered for introduction in the programme.

Criteria to Open Health Sub-Centres

†1914. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether population is the criteria for opening health sub-centres for providing primary health facilities in the country and if so, the number of such health sub-centres in the States that are required to be opened on the basis of 2001 census;

(b) if so, the number of health sub-centres required in Madhya Pradesh on the basis of 2001 Census and the actual number thereof at present; and

(c) by when such health sub-centres would be sanctioned for the State on this basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A Sub-centre is opened for a population of 5000 in the plain areas & 3000 in Tribal/hilly/difficult areas. According to 2001 population norm there is a shortage of 21983 Sub-centres in the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.